



SOCER STAR

SERVING VICTORIAN SOCCER



Vol. 1 No. 29

THURSDAY AUGUST 11, 1988

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SOUTH MISSES OUT



● Steve Marley's back in time for the Cup-Final next week.

Another Referee Assaulted

VSF Executive Director Mr George Wallace this week expressed his concern at the growing violence in the game as

another referee was assaulted by a player.

Referee Colin Williams abandoned the Victorian League third division game between Clarinda and Springvale United

after he was attacked by a Springvale player.

Former Socceroo Peter Ollerton will face the Tribunal tonight (Thursday) on a charge of assaulting referee Jim Fearn after he was sent off whilst playing for

Doveton in a second division match against Sandringham.

The first division game between Nunawading City and Werribee on July 23rd also had to be abandoned when fighting broke out amongst

spectators after Jim O'Reilly had been sent off.

O'Reilly was penalised with a two-week suspension after it was proved he had been spat on by a spectator, and Werribee was awarded the points.

SUMMER SOCCER OR NOT?

WE WANT YOUR OPINION
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JAMES P.9



• Bugsy Nyskohus

THE NSL's longest-serving player, Adelaide City stalwart Bugsy Nyskohus bowed on a winning note as he captained the team to victory over South Melbourne on Sunday.

Nyskohus joined Adelaide City from USC Lion in 1977, the inaugural year of the NSL and since then has racked up a record 294 games with the club.

Besides captaining City, Nyskohus also captained South Australia in interstate games and played for Australia.

After Sunday's game there was an emotional get-together as Adelaide City officials, local politicians and fans gathered to pay homage to the nuggety little defender.

City's coach, Zoran Matic paid an eloquent tribute to Nyskohus, saying "Bugsy is a model for all young sportsmen and he has a great future in the game in any role he cares to try.

"The way he played today he could go on for

SNIPPETS

By LES SHORROCK

Croatia, demonstrating his versatility by converting from a speedy winger to an equally speedy full-back.

CONSIDERING the enormous upheaval that switching the NSL season to summer will entail, it seems strange and undemocratic to me that the NSL executive hasn't bothered to ascertain the views of the people at the coal-face... the players, referees and fans, not to mention the media.

Another twenty years," added Matic.

City president Charlie Caruso capped the proceedings and completely bowed Nyskohus over when he presented him with a cheque for \$5000 on behalf of the club's officials, sponsors and fans.

Nyskohus won't be lost to the game altogether.

He could be appointed player-coach of City's State League team.

Another well-known player who has probably played his last NSL game is Graham Heys who with 250 games under his belt is far behind Nyskohus.

Heys was playing for non-League club Altrincham when Alan Vest brought him out to play for Newcastle KB in 1979.

When the great Newcastle experiment sadly folded, he transferred to West Adelaide, then on to Melbourne to play for Preston Makedonia under Billy Murray.

When Preston had its "purge" which also saw the departure of Gary Cole, Heys found a new home with Melbourne

By he misses the point anyway.

Switching to summer won't improve the lot of the vast majority of the players in the other Leagues, who will continue to play in winter.

And since none of the NSL clubs in Melbourne will instal lights, we are in for more and more games at Olympic Park, whether the pitch can stand it or not.

But I could be wrong in my stance against summer soccer and the only way to find out is to ask you for your opinion anyway.

At the bottom of this page there is a coupon.

Just fill it in, indicating whether or not you are in favour of summer soccer or not, clip it out and mail it to us.

Wait until they hear about that in Bury!

Brooks was so well thought of at Caulfield that the whole club cheerfully paid for the advert on

page nine to wish him hundred copies along well.

(We'll be sending your



• Dave Brooks

Olympic Park Answers its Critics

OLYMPIC Park's No. 1 ground, generally accepted as being the best soccer venue in Australia, was heavily criticised by all sections of the media during the Gold Cup games.

Most of us in the soccer media feel that the problems all stem from the rock concert in January 1987, which unfortunately coincided with a period of heavy rain.

It has seemed that the playing surface has never fully recovered from that experience, but in fairness it has to be said that Olympic Park Management has agonised over the problem and even sent Ground Manager Roger Hampson, on an overseas fact-finding trip to see how other sporting venues coped with the problem.

He found during his visit to Wembley Stadium, possibly the most famous football ground in the world, that its managers think nothing of completely re-turfing the whole playing surface up to ten times a year, and they will cheerfully host as many rock concerts as they can secure.

But Wembley has its own farm, where it grows turves three times the thickness of your ordinary instant lawn standard and they can knit together in a week. We all take Olympic Park for granted until it has problems, and then we criticise it.

And it has to be borne in mind that if the mid-summer madness overtakes the NSL next year, though Olympic Park Management accepts that the pitch was not up to its usually high standard, I

believe it is important to answer some of the media 'mud-slinging' (pardon the pun...).

The pitch was heavily booked for a few weeks leading up to the tournament — not only by National Soccer League clubs, but also by teams that were to participate in the Gold Cup, who took advantage of the ground for training. The VSF made bookings which included international competition between Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

July 3 in fact saw Melbourne Croatia play Marconi on the pitch — when it was in an excellent condition. We were then subjected to three nights of rain which limited preparation time for the forthcoming Gold Cup.

It should be noted that all Melbourne grounds suffered from the heavy rain and that the media also reported that many of Melbourne's VFL grounds were not up to standard.

Olympic Park's Western Sports Ground stood up to exceptional pressure from both a heavy booking schedule and heavy rains. No other ground would have been able to take the wear and tear that the ground suffered during July, and been in as good a condition as the Olympic Park pitch. It is part of

• Continued P6

SUMMER SOCCER READERS POLL

I am in favour
I am not in favour

Cross out which is not applicable

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SEND TO: The Editor
Soccer Star
12 Magnolia Street
Wantina 3152



• Graham Heys, about to hang up his boots after 250 games?

It is in favour
It is not in favour

Cross out which is not applicable

NAME.....

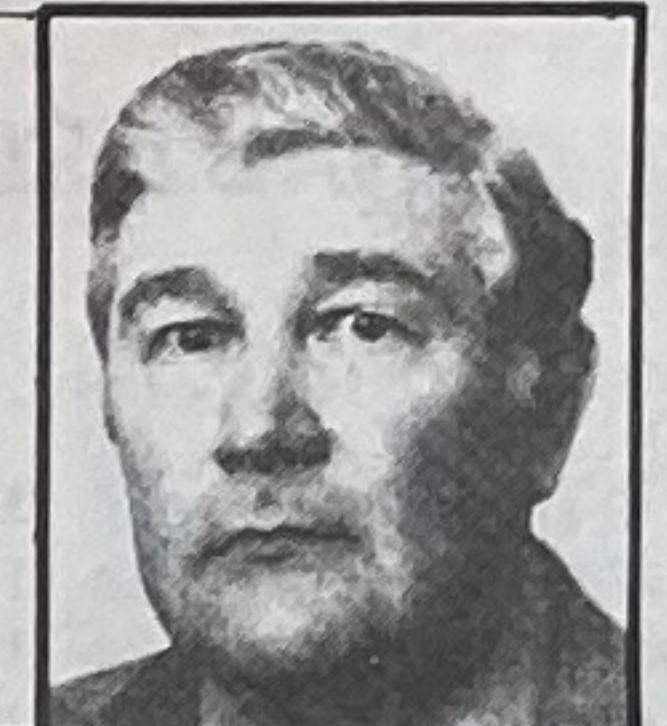
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WHERE HAVE ALL THE COACHES GONE?

Rooney still looking for arrogance

By BOB BRIAN of the Melbourne Herald



WHY is it that there are no Australian-born coaches in the West End National League? Or, for that matter, the Victorian State League?

Frankly I hadn't thought about it until I spoke to Jimmy Rooney, an ex-patriot Scot who has played for Australia 100 times, including the 1974 World Cup in West Germany.

"It's just that I want to see Australia raise its own stars and, believe me, they are there to be discovered and worked on."

The coaching situation again comes down to confidence in Rooney's opinion.

"It has to be confidence or arrogance. There is no other answer unless the clubs don't want to give them a chance.

"Local coaches can learn just as much about the game as anyone else. Where they probably miss out is in experience gained from playing at a reasonably high level.

"Maybe they are not quite sure of themselves when it comes to telling players what to do. Again it's arrogance. You have to make them believe that you know more than they do.

"I was amazed when I went over the teams in the State League the other day and couldn't find an Australian coach. It's unbelievable when you consider how long the game has been played here."

Of course, it could also have a lot to do with the game not really being accepted by Australians on the same level as Australian Rules, rugby league or cricket.

"It seems that our best young players still have an inferiority complex although there are signs that it is changing thanks to players like Alan Davidson.

"Davidson has never felt inferior to anyone and that is why he is one of the best players in Australia. Youngsters should learn from him. He has that 'look at me' attitude."

Rooney's faith in local talent is indicated by his refusal to bring overseas players to Bulleen when he took over this season.

"We have vacancies for three and maybe life would have been easier if we had filled them from overseas. But I still believe the talent is here and I keep telling my



• Jimmy Rooney has faith in local talent

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• Alan Davidson "Look at me"

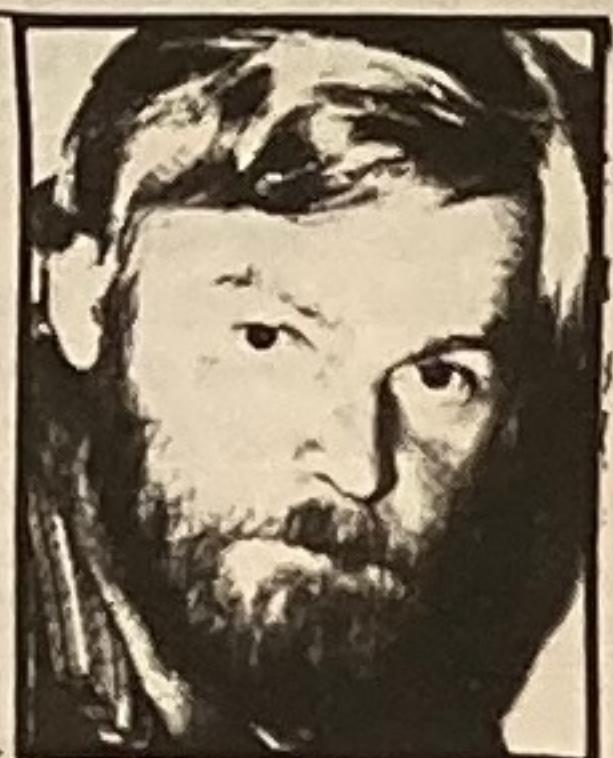
MELBOURNE SHORT-CHANGED AGAIN BUT HELLAS CAN DO IT

SOUTH Melbourne
Hellas faces the disadvantage of playing in Sydney when it kicks off its NSL finals campaign against Sydney Croatia next Tuesday.

However, it has a secret weapon called Angie Postecoglou who is capable of blasting Croatia off the park the way he did last time these teams met in Sydney.

Hellas has been drawn to meet Croatia at Marconi Stadium at 7.30pm — a strange decision considering that

By LAURIE SCHWAB of The Age



results agains the finalists: Hellas 3 (Trimboli, Wright, Postecoglou), Marconi 0 Sydney Olympic 0 Hellas 0 Sydney Croatia 1 (Lamond) Hellas 3 (Postecoglou 2, Wright)



● Paul Trimboli scores the vital goals.

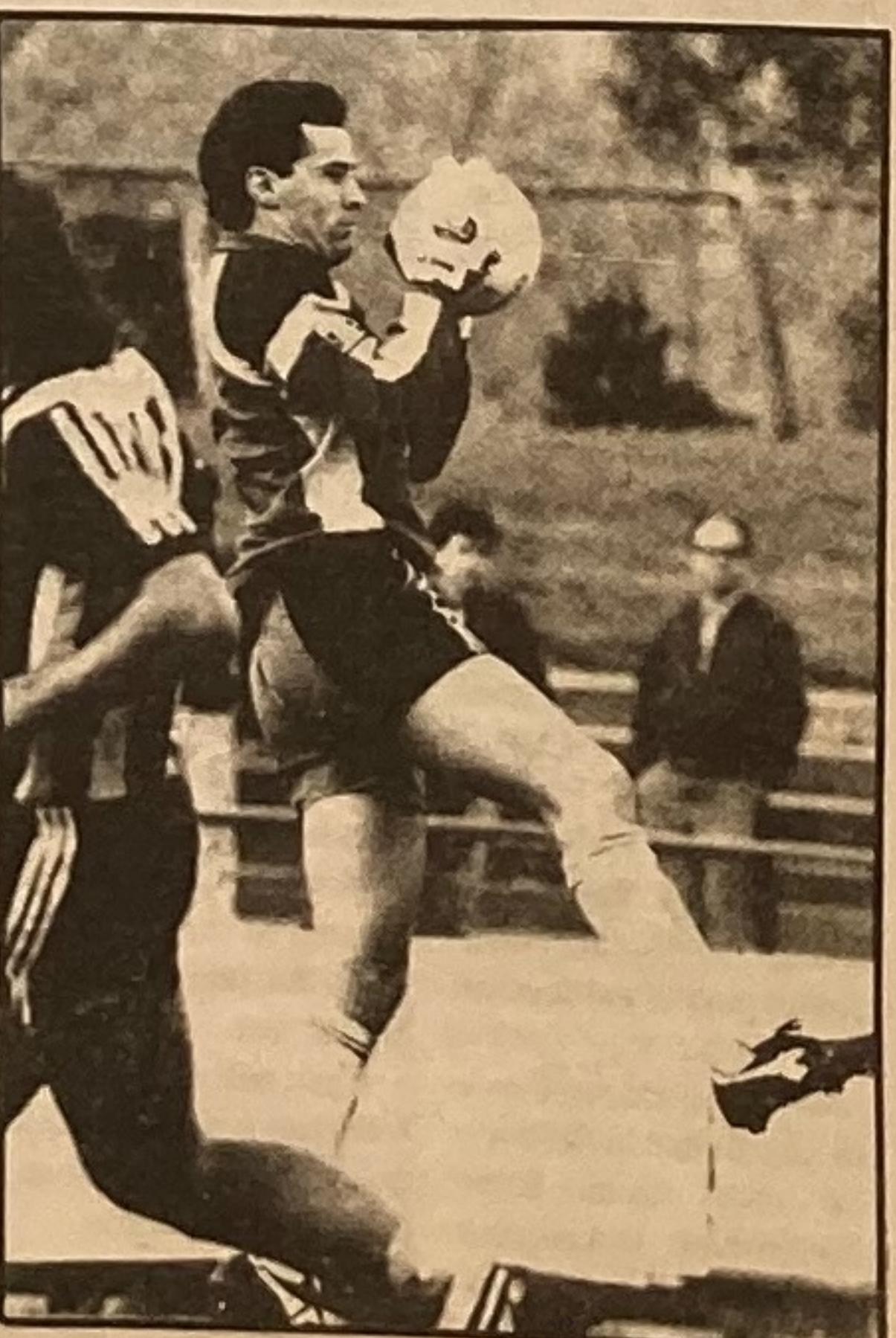
the semi-final between Sydney Olympic and Marconi also will be in Sydney, at 7.30pm the following night, at St George Stadium. One would have thought that the matches could have been shared between Sydney and Melbourne.

Postecoglou scored twice and Danny Wright once when Hellas beat Croatia 3-1 in Sydney early this year. He also scored in a 3-0 victory over Marconi in Melbourne and a 1-1 draw with Marconi in Sydney, giving him a total of four against teams that have qualified for the finals.

Danny Wright has notched three against the finalists — against Marconi (3-0), Sydney Croatia (3-1) and Sydney Olympic (2-1).

And Hellas has beaten everyone of the other four finalists, although in the case of Wollongong, it coped a 4-0 thrashing before turning the tables 2-1 at home.

Details of Hellas' best in Australia?



● Bruce McLaren — best in Australia?

eminently capable of snuffing out the likes of Robbie Slater, Graham Arnold, John Kosmina or Marshall Soper. Manny Anezakis also is a conscientious stopper, and Paul Fernandez has been a roaring success in the sweeper's position since he came into the side in round 13.

Against finals opposition, you need a good goalkeeper and there is none better than Bruce MacLaren. Many respected judges already regard him as the best in Australia. He is tall, strong, fast, commanding, agile. He never stops issuing instructions to his defenders. Manis Lamond, Russell Easthorpe, Terry Patalis or Zlatko Nastevski may eventually find a way to beat MacLaren.

I hope Hellas uses Kimon Taliadros on the bench. You have to go out to win finals matches, so it is more important to have a goalscorer like Taliadros on the bench than a defender.

Remember those vital goals the big young striker scored early in the year — especially the winner in the 5-4 result against APIA. Wouldn't be sensational if, in the grand final, he came on during extra time and notched the winner! But let's not look too far ahead. Let him score first against Sydney Croatia.

Notwithstanding the scoring feats of Frank Farina — who, it is troubled by injury at the moment. Hellas has the finest forward in Paul Trimboli who creates chances galore for his teammates as well as scoring vital goals himself.

Steve Blair is rated by his peers as the No.1 stopper in the league, their team provides entertainment.



SUNSHINE ON BACK BURNER

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Lewis, 8th, Caleta 64th)
GEORGE CROSS 1 (Clark 75th)

MAN OF THE MATCH
ROB DUNN

CLUB TOP GOALSCORERS

TOP scorers for each NSL club, with National Cup goals also shown:

Marconi: Frank Farina 16

Melbourne Croatia: Paul Lewis 13

Footscray JUST: Warren Spink 13

Brunswick Juventus: Joe Palatsides 11 & 1 (Cup goal)

St George Budapest: Scott Ollerenshaw 10

Sydney Croatia: Graham Arnold 10

APIA — Leichhardt: Hilton Philips 9 & 1

Sydney Olympic: John Kosmina 8 & 1

Wollongong: Randall Easthorpe 8

South Melbourne Hellas: Paul Trimboli 8 & 1

Sunshine-George Cross: John Markowski 7

Preston Makedonia: Steve Smith 6 & 1

Brisbane Lions: Nick Meredith & Russell Stewart 5 & 1.

○○○○○○○○○

MELBOURNE Croatia defeated Sunshine George Cross 2-1 at Olympic Park a week ago in their postponed round 24 game.

Two players critical to the Socceroos' hopes in the Olympics next month — Croatia's goalkeeper Jeff Oliver and back Robbie Dunn — played key roles in the game, which helped keep George out of the top five.

George Cross needed only a draw to climb into the National League top five but most of its players, apart from Andrew Marth and Shaun Parton, were little more than passengers.

George Cross played without John Campbell and Les Carter, who were suspended, and John Markowski, who is in Indonesia with the national youth team.

It was not until the 75th

minute, after youth players George Alevios and Laurie Kidner had replaced that George Cross scored its only goal, through Gary Clark.

For the rest of the match, Dunn brushed aside the George Cross forwards with ease. Oliver was commanding in goal and Jospi Biskic in midfield was the best player on the field.

It was from a cross by Biskic that Paul Lewis headed the first goal in the eighth minute and from a through ball by Biskic that Joe Caleta scored the second goal in the 64th minute.

George Cross played without John Campbell and Les Carter, who were suspended, and John Markowski, who is in Indonesia with the national youth team.

It was not until the 75th



● South's "secret weapon" Angie Postecoglou (left) and No. 1 stopper Steve Blair.

● Continued From P. 5
NSL

A fierce free kick from midfielder Jeff Ainsworth was parried by Croatia goalkeeper Anthony Franken and Ratcliffe knocked in the rebound.

"If he (Ratcliffe) is not the best centre half in the game, then I'll give soccer away," Fleming said.

Croatia busted and fought until the death and was able to snatch an equaliser two minutes into injury time after Mark Jones volleyed home from 10 metres.

Croatia counted its blessings that a yellow card awarded to Socceroo striker Graham Arnold served as only a two-point penalty. It means he will not miss the major preliminary semi-final against South Melbourne.

On the other hand, Wollongong will be without Jock Morlando, Mike Hollifield and Randall Easthorpe for its major semi-final in a fortnight's time.

Fleming is fortunate he has enigmatic former international striker Marshall Soper as a ready replacement for the front line.

Vedran Rozic,

Croatia's captain-coach,

could only lament at the opportunities his side frittered away, not only in this game but throughout the season.

"Today Wollongong had half a chance and scored, whereas we had many more chances and could not finish them off."

★★★★★★★★

Soccer Star's Action-Packed Picture Page



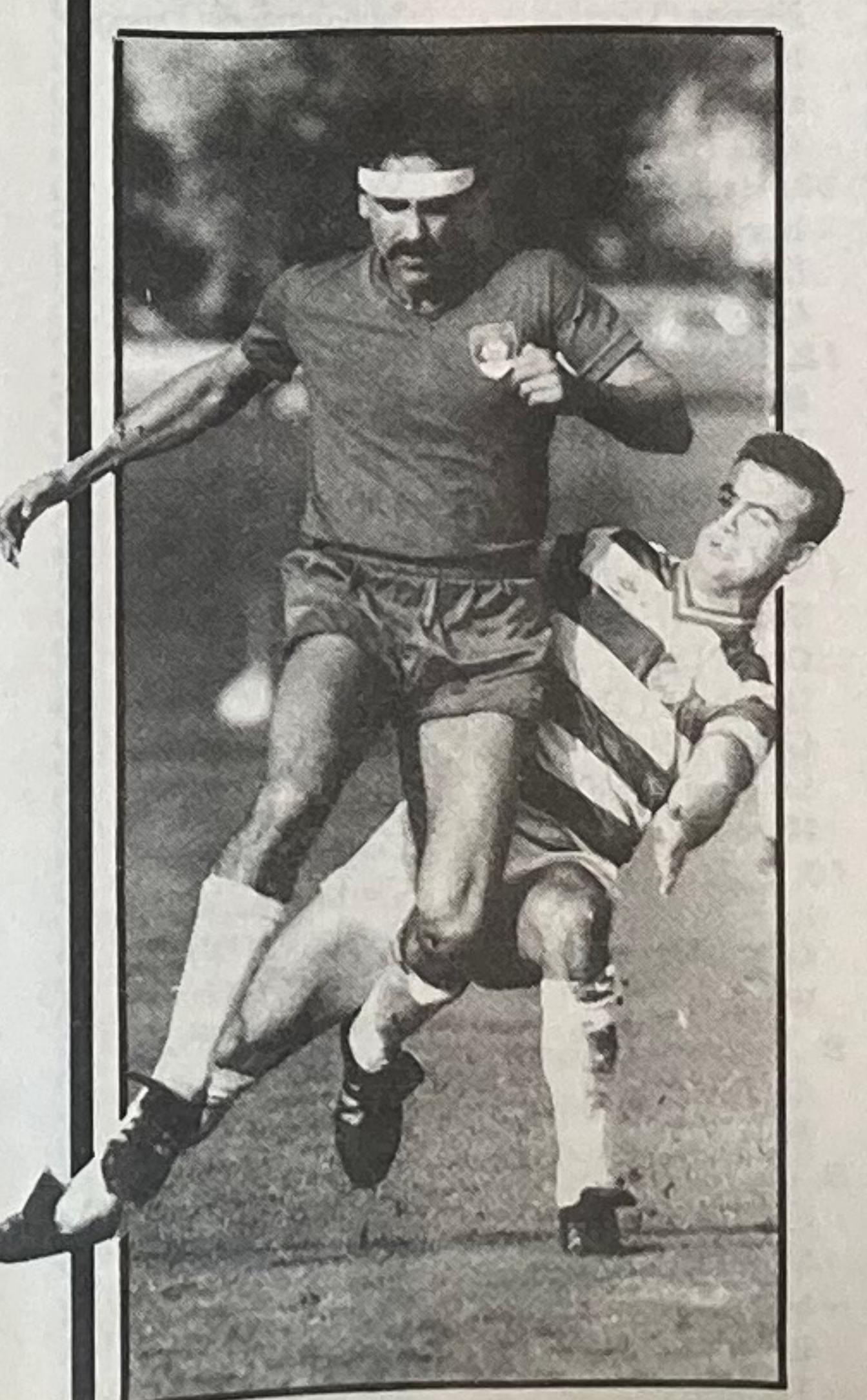
● Brian Brown heads clear.



● Peter Laumets punches clear from Alan Scott.



● Ringwood United's Pat Lennon is first to the ball.



● Eric Lesbirel of Brighton



● Ringwood's orphan Demir

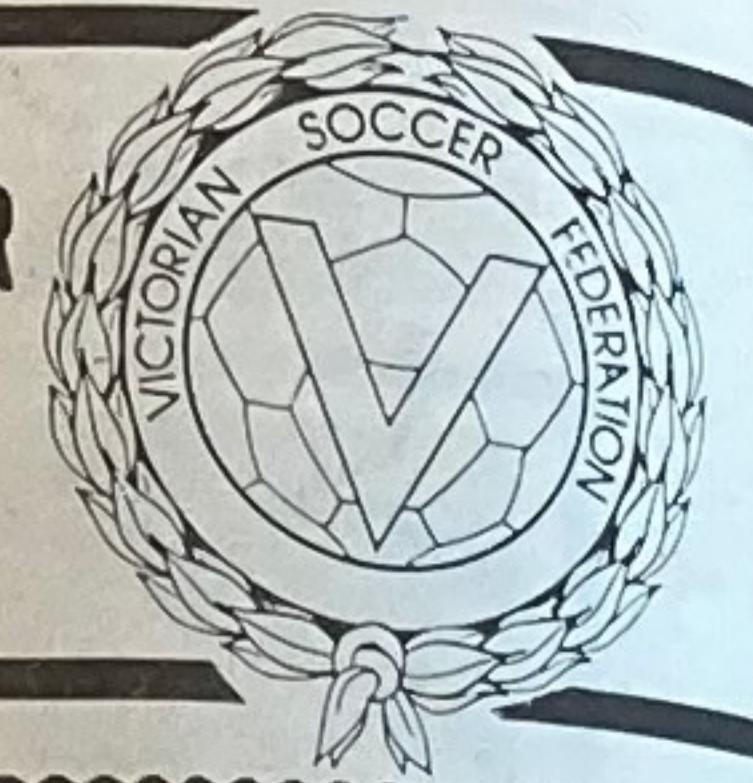


● Pat Lennon flies



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Round Twenty-Three Details

GREEN GULLY 0 CAULFIELD CITY 1 (Alagiozides 23rd)

At Gully Reserve, Sunday. Referee M. Calfapietra. Caution Alagiozides (C).

GREEN GULLY: Sant 6 — Farquharson 6, McClelland 7, Cutler 6, Grimaud 5 — Smart 6, Wilson 6, Douglas 6, Christie 5 (Milankovic 80th) — O'Donnell 6, Quigley 5 (Napoli 60th). Coach Willie Vassallo.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer 7 — Bitsonis 7, Harris 9, Fattore 8, Filipou 8 — Griffin 8, Theoharous 7, Alagiozides 7 (Abraam 85th), Deligiannis 7 (Zolotarev 87th) — Zemunik 8, Goutzioulis 7. Coach Jimmy Condilis.

Ansett best player award: Harris (C) 3, Fattore (C) 2, McClelland (G.G) 1.

HEIDELBERG UNITED 1 (Stubbins 57th) BULLEEN 2

(Bozikas 78th pen, Boarotto 89th).

At Olympic Village, Sunday. Referee C. Cambridge. Caution Ruccia (B). **HEIDELBERG:** Banovic 5 — Kanesoulis 6, Patiniotis 5, Ousalkas 7, Bordignon 8 and Dowie 5, Valentine 7, Pappas 6, Raynes 8 — Stubbins 7, Morovic 7, Coach Terry Hennessy.

BULLEEN: Contini 7 — Marsan 6, Krajacic 8, Curulli 8, Curcio 6 (Romano 70th) — Troglic 6 (Angele 75th), Ruccia 8, Bozikas 9, Boarotto 7 — Lujic 8, Avian 8. Coach Jimmy Rooney.

Ansett best player award: Bozikas (B) 3, Bordignon (G) 2, Raynes (H) 1.

MARIBYRNONG 4 (Warszawski 15th, 30th, Watson 70th, Bonk 80th) MORWELL FALCONS 2 (Cassar 53rd, o.g. 87th)

At Raleigh Reserve, Sunday. Referee F. Deak.

MARIBYRNONG: Kostrzawa 7 — Lipiarski 7, Chetcuti 7, Innes 8, Smolarek 7 — Watson 7 (De Bono 75th), 30 Harris (Caul), Czarnik 7, Bonk 7, Lajic 6 — Warszawski 8, Temos 6 (Baran 63rd). Coach Jim McIntyre.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds 5 — Clarke 6, Bruns 5, Bingham 6, Gotis 5 — Bennett 6, O'Callaghan 6, Cassar 6, Webster 6 — Stirtton 5, Sokoluk 5. Coach Bobby McLachlan.

Ansett best player award: Warszawski (Mb) 3, Innes (Mb) 2, Smolarek (Mb) 1.

FAWKNER 3 (Hennessy 14th, Fraser 17th, Stenson 58th)

WESTERN SUBURBS 0

At Smith Reserve, Sunday. Referee F. Santa Isabel.

FAWKNER: Wilson 8 — Walsh 8, Hennessy 8, Ferla 8, Minichiello 8 — Schipano 8, Cullen 8 (Brown 80th), Fraser 8, Stenson 9 — Tuffield (Sabatino HT 8). Hanna 8. Coach Frank McAleer.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Tachiris 6 — Kountouris 6, Hamill 9, Pender 9, Esposito 5 — Williams 4 (Stefanidis 70th), Markovski 5 (Kagioglou 70th), Dimovski 7, Metaxas 5, Daley 5. Coach Kaz Kulak.

Ansett best player award: Stenson (Wests) 3, Pender (Wests) 2, Hennessy (F) 1.

RINGWOOD CITY 1 (McGuire 89th) SPRINGVALE CITY 1 (Keenan 3rd)

At Jubilee Park, Sunday. Referee M. Kondogiannis. Sent off Hart (R). **RINGWOOD CITY:** Janssen 7 — Cumming 6, May 7, Wemys 7 (Hart 55th, sent off) Verniers 7 — Kennedy 7, Corvan 7, McGuire 7, Nelan 6 — Nijholt 6, Cocker 6. Coach Hans Petersen.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Hermus 8 — Kral 7, Bryden 8, Reilly 9, Whyte 7 — Findlay 7, Livingston 7, Verechia 7, Bothwell 7 (Bozic 82nd) — Keenan (Morrey 80th), Richardson 7. Coach Gus MacLeod.

Ansett best player award: Keenan (S) 3, Reilly (S) 2, Corvan (R) 1.

BOX HILL 0 CROYDON CITY 0

At Wembley Park, Sunday. Referee J. Rutter. Sent off Brack (C). **BOX HILL:** McKinlay 7 — McArthur 7, Davidson 8, Roodhouse 9, Hanley 7 — Burton 7, Thomas 7, Brimmer 7, Campbell 7 — McBride 8, Aretis 7. Coach John Brown.

CROYDON CITY: M. Runje 7 — Lansbury 8, McIntosh 7, Dobson 8, Brown 7 — Brack (sent off), Van Egmond 8, Campbell 7, R. Runje 7 — Humble 6 (French 60th), G. Runje 6. Coach Miron Bleiberg.

Ansett best player award: Roodhouse (B.H) 3, Van Egmond (C.C) 2, Lansbury (C.C) 1.

NORTHCOTE CITY 2 (Manou 14th, Woodall 63rd pen)

THOMASTOWN 2 (Cristaldo 53rd, Athersych 86th)

At John Cain Reserve, Sunday. Referee T. Sorensen. Caution P. Constantinou (N), McMillan, Higgins (T).

NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia 6 — Leonards 7, Palmaricciotti 9, Kouremeros 7, N. Constantinou (Tsangos 74th) — Woodall 8, Bekiaris 8, Manou 8, P. Constantinou 8 — Gilder 8, Gymnopoulos 7. Coach Carl Gilder.

THOMASTOWN: Janakievski 8 — Mihos 6, Pianalto 9, Higgins 8, McMillan 7 — Cristaldo 8, Carfora 68 — Lewis 8 (McGuinness 82nd), Athersych 8. Coach Bill Murray.

Ansett best player award: Pianalto (T) 3, Palmaricciotti (N) 2, P. Constantinou (N) 1.

OAKLEIGH v. ST ALBANS postponed, ground unfit.

PACIFIC TIMBER STATE LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HEIDELBERG	22	12	4	6	40	24	28
CAULF. CITY	23	10	8	5	33	25	28
THOMASTOWN	23	11	6	6	31	24	28
ST ALBANS	21	10	7	5	31	20	27
Northcote C	22	9	7	6	31	24	25
Green Gully	21	8	8	5	27	18	24
Croydon City	20	8	6	6	22	23	22
Ringw. City	23	8	6	9	31	35	22
Maribyrnong	22	8	5	9	36	32	21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morwell Falcons	23	6	9	8	21	23	21
Bulleen	21	7	6	8	19	26	20
Box Hill	23	4	11	8	26	32	19
Spring. City	23	5	9	9	21	31	19
Western Suburbs	23	8	2	13	27	40	18
Fawkner	22	6	5	11	17	25	17
Oakleigh	22	5	5	12	19	30	15

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northcote City	21	14	6	1	53	19	34
Fawkner	22	15	2	5	63	31	32
Heidelberg	22	11	5	6	52	38	27
St Albans	22	11	5	6	40	36	27
Morwell Falcons	23	10	5	8	41	30	25
Bulleen	21	9	6	6	47	34	24
Caulf. City	22	10	4	8	49	38	24
Box Hill	23	10	4	9	46	38	24
Ringw. City	21	9	6	6	47	42	24
Green Gully	22	11	2	9	48	43	24
Croydon City	20	8	4	8	41	32	20
Thomastown	21	7	5	9	41	53	19
Western Subs.	23	7	3	13	32	63	17
Maribyrnong	22	7	1	14	37	59	15
Spring. City	22	3	3	16	23	52	9
Oakleigh	20	1	1	18	23	72	3

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STATE LEAGUE BEST PLAYER AWARD

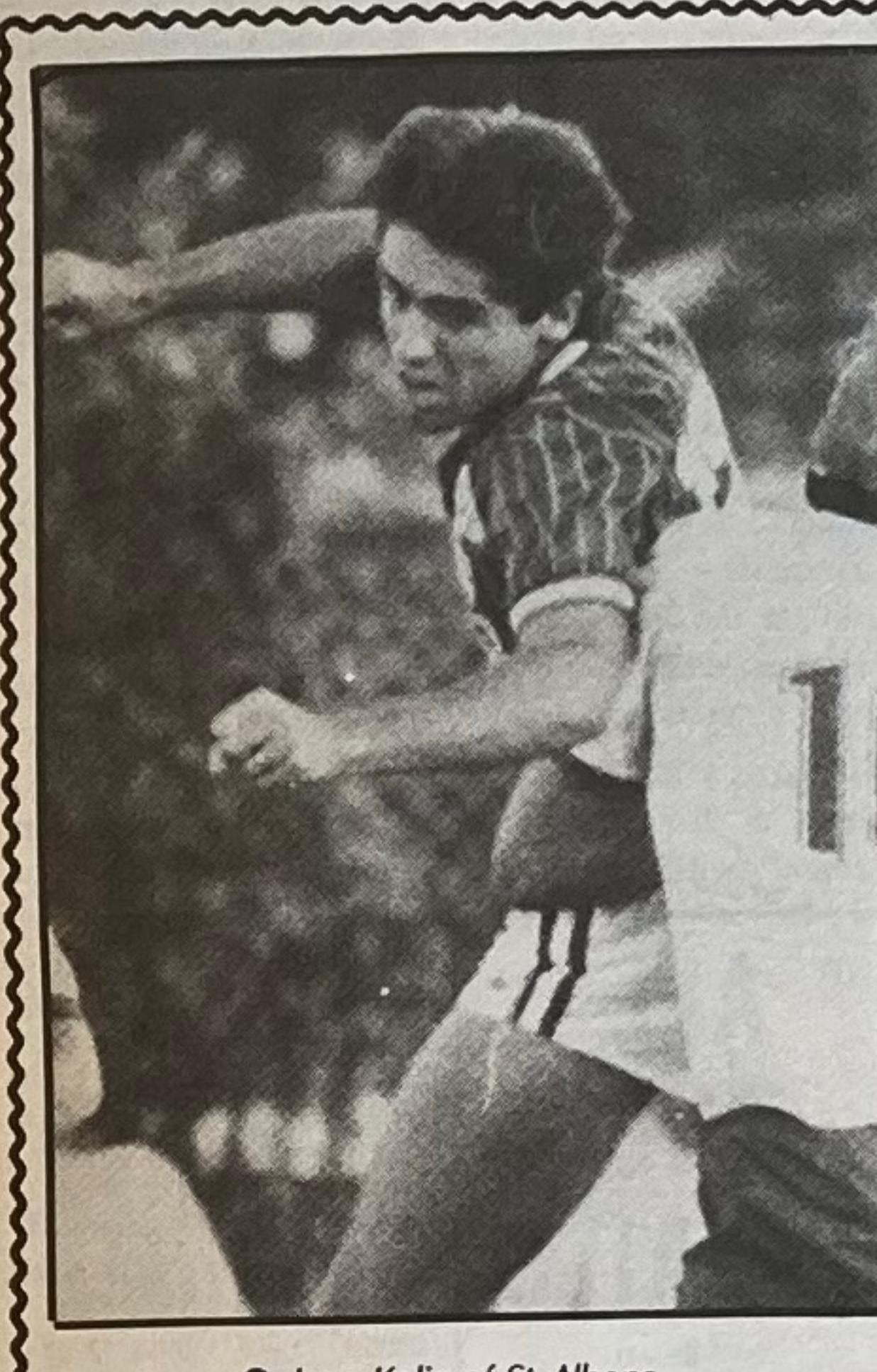


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POSTPONEMENTS BECOMING A WORRY

- McLAREN KNOCKS BACK NORTHCOTE
- TITLE RACE WIDE OPEN AGAIN
- CAN FALCONS BEAT RELEGATION?



DESPITE the shock home JUST defeats suffered by Heidelberg and Green Gully, last weekend's results shed little light on the State League's championship and relegation prospects.

And the extraordinary decision to postpone Oakleigh's game with St Albans didn't help either.

Sure it was an atrocious day weather-wise, and the notorious Caloola pitch looked in absolute worst, but both teams would have been happy to play the game, and it wouldn't have been unsafe, which I always thought was the main criterion.

So we had the remarkable situation of the Reserves match going ahead on another pitch alongside the main one (with all the players obviously enjoying themselves) whilst we all waited for the referee to make up his mind about getting his boots dirty.

The Saints, unbeaten since round fifteen, were just building up a nice head of steam for the final run home, and looking a big danger to the favourite, Heidelberg.

Now they face the prospect of squeezing in an extra two games in the end he sent away



last seven rounds, with the possibility of having to play midweek, with all the problems that entails for part-timers.

It isn't their problem alone, of course, Croydon has three games in hand and Green Gully and Maribyrnong two each.

When VSF Executive Director George Wallace heard about the Oakleigh postponement he groaned and said "that's all I needed."

Oakleigh seems to be dooming to relegation anyway, but the decision was a big blow to St Albans, whose officials were fuming.

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

IN A LATE SEASON PUSH FOR DIVISION 2A HONOURS, DANDY DYNAMO WAS COMPLETELY RUTHLESS IN ITS APPROACH TO AN UNMANNED CSUV, DEMOLISHING THE SALVADOREANS BY A MASSIVE 11-0. THE WIN LIFTED THE DANDIES INTO SECOND SPOT, TWO POINTS ADRIFT OF DIVISION LEADERS, WINDSOR.

DANDY DYNAMO RUNS RIOT

The fate of the Division 2A flag could well be decided next week when these two teams meet. The Dandies will not only have to contend with Windsor's home ground advantage, but with a determined defence and the awesome fire-power of Ioannidis, Katirigolou and Polyhronakis. Dandy Dynamo will need not only the points, but a respectable margin, in order to overtake Windsor's superior goal difference.

But the Dandies are not without fire-power of their own, with Doro Docenou (who netted six in this round), Lavinus Ranca and the Georgescu Brothers in top form. If Windsor can stave off this challenge, it looks a certainty for the championship, but a win to Dandy Dynamo would lift it to favouritism as it appears to have the easier run home.

It was a rotten day for Rowville previously well in the running. Having made the long trip to Reservoir, confident of taking two points from Preston Pythons, Rowville came away lamenting what might have been. The Pythons, inspired by the previous weekend's fighting entry into the League Cup semi-finals, refused to let a fighting Rowville not a muddy pitch blanket their natural skills. In an unusual display of determination, the Pythons carried the game right up to Rowville for the full 90 minutes, and emerged victors by the odd goal in seven.

Meanwhile Flamingo, who looked in with a chance two weeks ago, suffered its second successive defeat, and now appears to have dropped out of contention. Windsor was

simply too strong and too well organised, thoroughly deserving its 5-2 result.

But the Sparrows are as chirpy as all get-out, following their second win in a row, this time at the expense of the luckless but never-say-die Dandenong United.

But with five rounds to play, Division 2A still remains wide open, with only six points separating first and fourth. Really, no one can afford a slip.

In Division One, Middle Park strengthened its grip on the championship. Proving that last week's Cup win over Hampton Park was no fluke, it repeated the treatment in this league round, cruising to a relatively comfortable 2-0 win. Altona Ilinden spoilt its chances of catching the leaders when it dropped a point away to Glenroy Doxa United.

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Tottenham's grip on Division 3 West leadership was maintained in a 5-1 win over Whittlesea in a game marred by flashes of unnecessary spite. The other pretenders to this championship, St Albans Wanderers and Altona Heights, also had sound wins. The question is, will Tottenham totter? It does not look like it and it would, in any case, take an heroic effort for either of its rivals to overcome its massive goal difference, as well as the points gap.

Montrose, meanwhile, is throwing out a late challenge, moving into second spot after a convincing 5-3 win over Youth United. The loss dumped the Young Turks to fourth spot, as Coomoora Spiders' devastating 3-0 away win over Springvale Eagles gave the Arachnids third spot on goal difference.

Northcote United retained its fifth place after a titanic struggle with Swinburne. The Students play a lot better than their ninth place would indicate, and could probably count themselves unlucky not have salvaged a point from this encounter.

About the only way that Dallas United can miss out on the Division 3 East championship is by doing something totally evil and getting itself disqualified. It has still not dropped a point in 13 matches, and with a +49 gal difference

by Hampton Park United, each only two points adrift of the leaders, and determined to make up the leeway. Fibremakers United is slightly better placed to take out the 2M double, having a three point break over Swinburne, with Springvale Eagles a point further back.

One hesitates to write the Students off at this stage. With five rounds in which to do it, they are still capable of reaching the top spot, especially as they have a far better goal difference than the leaders.

North Dandenong Sparrows' grip on the Division 2A reserves leadership is the most tenuous of all. The Sparrows lead by a solitair from Rowville United with the other

Birdmen Flamingo, a solitary point from Rowville United, with the other Birdmen, Flamingo, a further two points back.

Any one who would like to help the Australian Deaf Sports Federation to send a soccer team to compete in New Zealand in January could attend a fund-raising night on Saturday, 27th August, at 7.30pm at the Social Club, 101 Wellington Parade South, East Melbourne. Tickets are only \$10, and it is a very good cause.

The three least fashionable sides in this division also the only interest now is who can take the runners-up trophy, and who will be in the final four play-offs. Only three points separate fifth and second, and only four points separate fourth and eighth. The two surprises in this round were Eugene Finnegan, netting at the 50th minute. Apollo United (ninth) knocked off Footscray United (seventh), and Australian Airlines (tenth) accounted for Highpoint (sixth) in a close 2-1 tussle.

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VICTORIAN LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

Firsts

Richmond 1 Werribee 3

Moorebank 1 Mandi 1

Nunawading 3 Sunbury Utd 2

Altona Gate 2 Westgate 0

Frankston Pines 4 Dandenong 0

Essendon City 2 Knox City 1

Broadmeadows 1 Altona 0

P.W.D.L.F.A.P

Alt Gt 19 13 5 1 36 31

Fton P 19 13 3 35 17 29

Albion 19 9 4 6 27 18 22

Wber 19 7 8 4 27 20 22

Wgto 19 8 3 6 30 18 21

M'bank 19 9 3 7 36 25 21

B'med 19 7 7 5 19 21 21

Knox 18 8 2 8 26 18 18

N'wad 18 8 2 9 25 19 18

Edon 15 5 7 7 21 25 19

R'mond 15 5 2 12 18 47 12

D'ng 19 2 4 13 12 33 16

S'bury 19 2 2 15 11 33 6

Reserves

Richmond 2 Werribee 3

Moorebank 3 Mandi 2

Nunawading 3 Sunbury Utd 0

Altona Gt 3 Westgate 1

Frankston Pines 2 Dandenong 2

Essendon City 1 Knox City 3

Broadmeadows 4 Altona 4

P.W.D.L.F.A.P

D'ng 19 11 7 14 44 28 29

M'bank 18 13 3 2 36 18 29

Alt Gt 18 12 3 3 53 26

B'med 18 8 5 6 37 32 20

Edon 18 8 4 6 37 32 20

Wber 17 7 5 5 36 33 19

Alb 16 6 5 7 25 24 17

C'nt 18 11 3 4 40 19 4

Fton P 19 4 7 8 28 33 15

R'mond 19 5 4 10 31 42 14

Gel 18 8 4 6 32 18 17

M'bank 18 6 1 11 32 49 13

Knox 18 5 2 9 22 30 12

N'wad 18 4 4 10 10 33 12

Wgto 17 3 5 29 37 11

Cor/G 19 4 1 11 30 40 9

S'bury 19 3 5 11 16 38 11

Division Two

Firsts

Pra/Brighton 1 Ringwood Utd 0

Dovton 1 Heidelberg City 1

Doncaster Rov 0 North Geelong 0

Yarral 0 Waverley City 1

Ethon 2 Colliton Hill 2

P.W.D.L.F.A.P

Sham 18 12 5 4 16 18 20

N'Gest 19 10 7 2 35 21 27

Dove 19 11 5 3 26 17 26

Kellar 18 8 7 4 32 25 23

C'ton 18 8 6 5 36 26 22

Wav 18 6 7 33 30 19

Ring 19 7 5 26 26 12

Pra/Br 19 7 4 8 29 30 18

Y'll 19 5 6 8 21 26 18

Don R 19 4 8 7 17 24 16

H'berg 19 5 5 9 18 25 25

Alt Cy 19 4 6 9 28 36 14

P'nt 19 4 11 22 34 12

Ethon 18 1 5 12 15 42 17

Reserves

Pra/Brighton 7 Ringwood 0

Port Melbourne 1 Sandringham 0

Dovton 1 Heidelberg City 0

Doncaster Rov 1 Nth Geelong 5

Y'll 0 Waverley City 2

Kellar 3 Altona City 2

Ethon 1 Clifton Hill 2

P.W.D.L.F.A.P

Alt 19 10 6 3 51 27 26

Kellar 18 12 2 4 34 17 26

H'berg 19 10 4 5 44 34 24

P'nt 19 10 3 6 33 26 23

Bent 18 11 5 4 22 25 27

B'wick 19 9 3 7 48 31 21

Ding 19 8 4 6 39 29 20

Gray 19 8 4 7 39 49 20

M'bank 19 8 3 8 35 38 19

Dob 17 6 5 6 27 31 17

L'ktor 19 6 4 9 38 41 16

E'gel 19 6 2 11 27 43 14

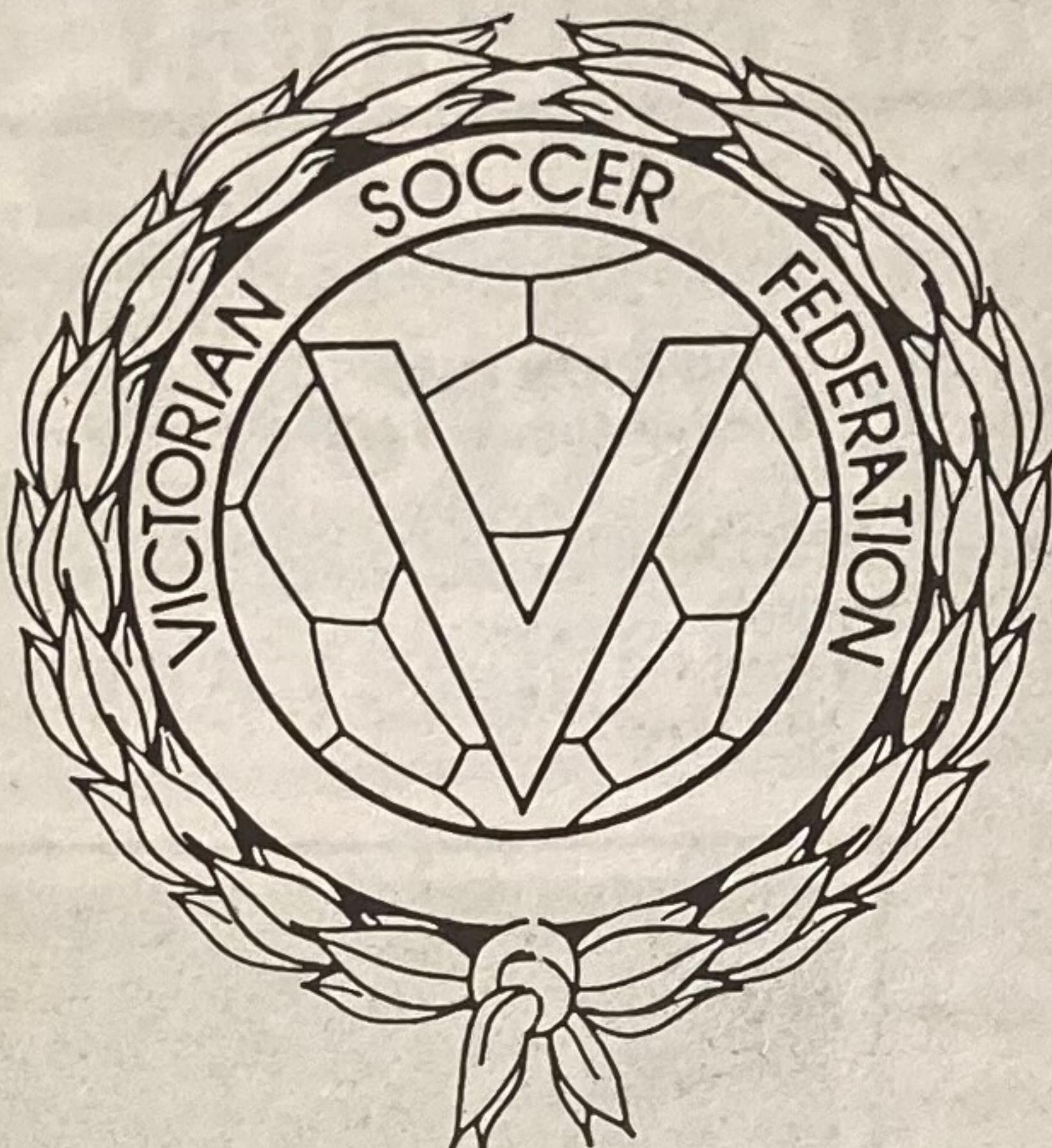
Mon U 18 6 1 11 29 34 13

C'bow 18 4 11 30 45 13

E'will 19 4 2 13 19 38 10

H'will 19 0 1 18 16 56 1

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION



PRESENTS

STATE LEAGUE ROUND TWENTY FOUR

Sat./Sun. August 13/14

Morwell Falcons v Box Hill
North Crinigan Reserve
MORWELL
SATURDAY KO 3 PM

Bulleen v Maribyrnong
Veneto Club
BULLEEN
SATURDAY KO 3 PM

**Caulfield City v Heidelberg
Un.**
Princes Park
Caulfield
SATURDAY KO 3 PM

Western Suburbs v St Albans
Ralph Reserve
ARDEER
SUNDAY KO 3 PM

Croydon City v Northcote City
Croydon Park
SPRINGFIELD AVE
SUNDAY KO 3 PM

Fawkner v Green Gully
Smith Reserve
JUKES RD., FAWKNER
SUNDAY KO 3 PM

Thomastown v Ringwood City
Partridge Reserve
LALOR
SUNDAY KO 3 PM

Springvale City v Oakleigh
Ross Reserve
NOBLE PARK
SUNDAY KO 3 PM